A New Species of *Parathesis* (Myrsinaceae) from Honduras

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ABSTRACT. While preparing the treatment of Myrsinaceae for the *Flora Mesoamericana* a new species of *Parathesis* was discovered from Olancho, Honduras. *Parathesis pipolyana* is described and illustrated, and its phylogenetic relationships are discussed.

RESUMEN. Al preparar un tratamiento taxonómico de la familia Myrsinaceae para *Flora Mesoamericana,* se descubrió una nueva especie perteneciente al género *Parathesis* proveniente de Olancho, Honduras. Se describe e ilustra *Parathesis pipolyana,* y se discute su parentezco.

Key words: *Flora Mesoamericana,* Honduras, Myrsinaceae, Olancho, *Parathesis.*

The genus *Parathesis* (A. DC.) Hooker f. contains 92 species distributed from northern Mexico to Panama, the Caribbean basin, and throughout the Andes from Venezuela to Bolivia as well as adjacent Brazil. The genus is defined by the unique glandular papillae of the calyx and corolla lobes and bright yellow anthers. In preparation for the treatment of *Parathesis* for *Flora Mesoamericana,* a new species from Honduras was discovered; it is described herewith.

Parathesis pipolyana Ricketson, sp. nov. TYPE: Honduras. Olancho: alrededor de El Filo, 15 km al NO de Catacamas, en el Parque Nacional de Agalta, 14°59′N, 85°56′W, 1920 m, 1 June 1992 (bud), *D. Mejía 135* (holotype, MO; isotype, EAP not seen). Figure 1.

Propter inflorescentiam lateralem, ramulos rhachidesque inflorescentiarum etiam laminas foliorum subtus dense grosseque stipitato-stellato- vel glandulari-villosotomentosos, necnon laminas membranaceas secus margines dentatas vel serratas *P. vestitae* valde arcte affinis, sed ab ea trichomatibus rufis (non ferrugineis) stipitati-dendroideis (nec longi-villosis), denique laminarum nerviis secundariis 13 ad 25 (non 25 ad 3)-jugis statim distinguitur.

Trees 20 m tall. *Branchlets* slender, angulate, 3–7 mm diam., densely and coarsely tomentose, the indument composed of rufous stalked stellate trichomes. *Leaves* with blades membranous, elliptic to oblong-elliptic, 14.6–18.1 × 4.6–7.1 cm, apically acute to acuminate, with an acumen 0.7–1.5 cm long, basally acute to obtuse, decurrent on the petiole, conspicuously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, sparsely to densely stalked stellate tomentellous to tomentose over the majority of the blade, not bizonal, the stalked stellate hairs often breaking off apically and then appearing like glandular-villous hairs, but always densely tomentose along the midrib above and below, the midrib impressed above, prominently raised below, the secondary veins 13 to 25 pairs, conspicuously impressed above, prominently raised below, the margins serrate to dentate and mostly densely tomentellous; petiole slender, marginate, 1.7–2.8 cm long, densely tomentose. *Inflorescences* lateral, bi- to tripinnately paniculate, 7–14 × 2.5–5.5 cm, pyramidal, shorter than the leaves, the rachis densely mixed tomentose of rufous papillae and sessile, short or long stipitate dendroid trichomes, the branches 3- to 9-flowered corymbose; peduncles 4.4–6.2 cm long; inflorescence bracts unknown; inflorescence branch bracts unknown; floral bracts caducous, membranous, lanceolate, 1.2–1.8 × 0.4–0.5 mm, apically acute, basally sessile, conspicuously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous adaxially, sparsely rufous sessile dendroid tomentellous abaxially, the veins inconspicuous, the margins entire; pedicels in bud slender, angulate, 2–4 mm long, conspicuously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, indument of mixed rufous papillae, sessile or short stipitate multicellular dendroid trichomes. *Flowers* 5-merous, the following measurements from buds: calyx in bud membranous, 1.7–1.9 mm long, the tube 0.1–0.3 mm long, the lobes ovate to lanceolate, 1.5–1.7 × 0.6–0.8 mm, apically acute, conspicuously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous adaxially, sparsely to scattered mixed tomentellous abaxially, the indument consisting of glandular papillae and sessile or short stipitate-dendroid trichomes, the margins entire; corolla whitish, in bud chartaceous, 2–2.3 mm long, the tube 0.3–0.4 mm long, the lobes lanceolate, 1.8–2 × 0.7–0.8 mm, apically attenuate, conspic-

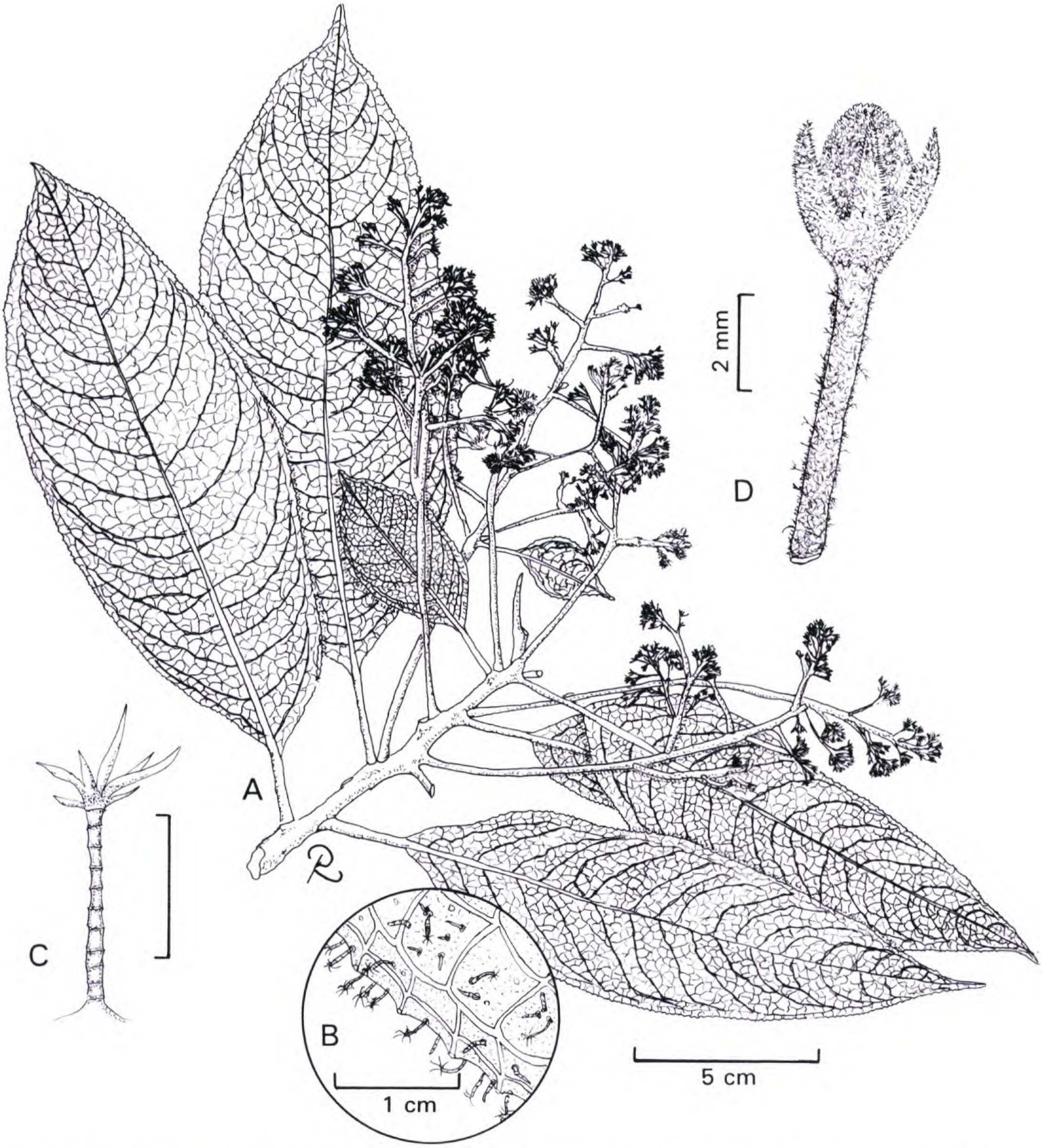

Figure 1. *Parathesis pipolyana* Ricketson. —A. Flowering branch. —B. Detail of abaxial leaf surface. —C. Rufous stalked stellate trichome. —D. Flower in bud. A–D drawn from holotype, *D. Mejía 135* (MO).

uously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, the rufous glandular papillae dense along the margins and apically, glabrous at the base within, densely rufous glandular papillate without, the margins entire; stamens 1.7–1.8 mm long, the filaments 0.5–0.6 mm long, the staminal tube to 0.1 mm long, the apically free portion 0.4–0.5 mm long, conspicuously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous, the anthers yellow, erect, basifixed, lanceolate, 1.6–1.7 × 0.5–0.6 mm, apically acute, apiculate, basally cordate, the connective conspicuously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate; pistil 1.8–2.2 mm long, the ovary ovate, 0.7–0.8 mm long, conspicuously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous except apically with scattered to densely rufous pubescence, the style 1.2–1.4 mm long, conspicuously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous except basally with scattered rufous trichomes, the ovules 5 or 6, uniseriate. *Fruits* unknown.

Distribution. *Parathesis pipolyana* is known only from the type collection from the Parque Na-

cional de Agalta, Olancho, Honduras, growing at 1920 m elevation.

Ecology. This species was collected in montane evergreen tropical forest, dominated by *Quercus* and *Chusquea.* At the present time, the *Pinus* species that are also important in this type of forest are under attack from a beetle, resulting in relatively more open canopies and drier conditions (John Pipoly, pers. obs.). Owing to this situation, the species is very likely under threat.

Etymology. It gives me great pleasure to dedicate this new species to my former supervisor, now colleague and mentor in Myrsinaceae, but most importantly, friend, John J. Pipoly, III, of the Fairchild Tropical Garden (FTG). John began his work at Michigan State University (MSC) under John Beaman, then completed his doctorate at The New York Botanical Garden (NY) on the systematics of *Cybianthus* subg. *Grammadenia* (Myrsinaceae). He presently is the Director of Research at Fairchild Tropical Garden (FTG), and has conducted extensive fieldwork in the Neotropics. His numerous publications on the Myrsinaceae will become standard references for the family for years to come. I am constantly amazed at his knowledge, understanding, and insights concerning this interesting family.

Parathesis pipolyana belongs to a group of species within *Parathesis* with lateral (axillary) inflorescences, erect anthers, and the indument of the branchlets and undersurface of the leaf blades consisting of coarse and conspicuous, distinct rufous trichomes. The trichomes in this group may be simple, sessile or stipitate dendroid, or sessile, subsessile, or stipitate stellate with erect and spreading rays.

Parathesis pipolyana is similar to *P. vestita* Lundell in its dentate leaf margins, dense indument throughout, and lateral (axillary) inflorescences, but differs by the nature of the indument of the leaf margins and in the size of the teeth along the leaf margins. In *Parathesis vestita,* the indument of the branchlets, leaf blades, petioles, and inflorescences consists mostly of long ferrugineous villous hairs and rarely includes long stipitate-bifid or stipitate-dendroid hairs; the indument is less dense on the midrib and secondary veins. In *P. pipolyana* the indument has more densely matted, erect, rufous stipitate-stellate hairs. In *Parathesis vestita* the adaxial leaf blade margins are glabrate or with widely scattered, short, simple hairs and have large teeth, whereas in *P. pipolyana* the leaf margins have scattered, stout, simple to rarely stipitate-stellate hairs, these hairs 0.5–0.8(–1) mm long and set between small teeth. The density and length of the trichomes of *Parathesis pipolyana* is similar only to those found in *P. sessilifolia* Donnell Smith; however, *P. pipolyana* is immediately distinguished from that species because its inflorescence is lateral rather than terminal as in *P. sessilifolia.*

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